



M. Z. BENNETT students raised \$371.76 for UNICEF during their walkathon held in the fall. Carol Grant points to the total on the thermometer as four more top walkers smile in approval. Pictured with Carol I. to r., are Ray Green, Antony Rouse, Doug Cooper and Maria Griefeneder. —(Staff Photo)

## Happiness is having someone who cares

"This is the onliest good Christmas." In these words a 16-year-old girl expressed her thanks to the staff at one of The Salvation Army's homes for unwed mothers. Barbara was the oldest of eight children. Her mother had died some years ago and her father had abandoned his family. She had lived in several foster homes and, in her search for the affection that had been denied her, had become pregnant. She was spending the holiday in The Salvation Army Home for Unmarried Mothers, but what might have been a dismal occasion had become one of new hope.

## Rome origin date

**Full stocking**  
Coming into the dining room on Christmas morning, she had found a full stocking hanging from her chair. After breakfast, there was Christmas worship, carol singing, and, finally, Santa's arrival. As the gifts were presented, she kept her eyes fixed on them on her lap. Suddenly she stood up, and, in faltering tones, said, "I hope it is alright for me to do this, I mean I hope it is alright for me to say to all of you that this is the onliest Christmas I have really ever had. It is the onliest good Christmas. I thought the good breakfast and Christmas stocking was all, but now we have so much more. I can't make a speech very well, but it is all in my heart and I just had to say thank you."

The first Sunday of the new year found Barbara kneeling after chapel service and seeking salvation.

**Difficult time**  
In a most difficult time, she had found people who cared and a faith to sustain her. Most of the girls in The Salvation Army's homes for

unwed mothers and hospitals are, like Barbara, little more than children themselves. Christmas is an especially hard time for many, as they feel shut out from the festivities enjoyed by the rest of the world. The holiday's emphasis on childhood may intensify their guilt and anxieties about the babies they are to bear. Because of this, the staff at each home makes special efforts to bring Christmas cheer to girls.

Preparations for the holiday begin early and continue for days, to offset as much as possible the feelings of sadness and loneliness. Making decorations, trimming the tree, carol singing, a special dinner, a holiday program, etc. all help, but most important of all is the personal attention and sincere acceptance given to each girl.

Most scholars agree that Dec. 25 is most certainly not the birthday anniversary of the Savior, and that He was not born in what we now measure as one A.D.

The custom of celebrating Christ's Birthday on Dec. 25 originated in Rome in the fourth century of the Christian Era, some say in 354 A.D. The Roman monk Dionysius Exiguus, who made the calculations for the calendar in the sixth century, probably misplaced A.D. by at least six years. Herod the Great, according to the current Gregorian calendar, died in four B.C. He is said to have put to death the boy babies in Bethlehem who were two years old and younger. The first Christmas may have been as early as six B.C.

**Purify soul**  
In finally choosing Dec. 25 for Christmas, the early church fathers probably were not unmindful that the Roman feast week of the Saturnalia ended on Dec. 24, after which some purification of the soul would be in order. Worshippers of Persian god Mithras celebrated Dec. 25 as the advent of the Sun.

## Custom started

Christmas today has changed its garb. Present customs like the ornamented tree, Santa Claus, the sending of cards, the extensive exchange of gifts, are Victorian innovations of the mid-nineteenth century. They have added a color, a glitter, an excitement to the Yuletide lacking in the stern conditions of the early countryside. But the things that truly matter now as then are little changed. Good songs and good fellowship are as old as the Order of Good Cheer. Be it the "rude plenty" of Durham's time or the affluent table of the modern apartment, good food has characterized the Canadian Yuletide. And Christmas has always been a time for the children.

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## Let's Play Bridge

by Bill Coats

Careful use of entries is important in many hands that you may play as declarer. Here is a hand where declarer must be careful to use every entry available.

East dealt with North-South vulnerable

NORTH		SOUTH	
S - 64	S - Q 2	H - K 765	H - A J 10 8 4 3 2
H - Q	H - 4 3 1	D - A Q 8 5 3	D - Void
D - R 7 4	D - Void	C - K J 8 7 2	C - A Q 4
C - 10 9 5	C - A Q 4		

The bidding:  
East SOUTH WEST NORTH  
Pass 1H 4C 4H  
2S 3H 4C 4H  
Pass Pass 4s Pass  
Pass 5H All pass

Opening lead - King of spades.  
Some of you may object to South's opening of a mere one bid. Even if the hand were stronger, I would still open only one heart. With highly distributional hands and unfavorable vulnerability I recommend an opening bid of just one. Anything more is likely to drive the opponents to sacrifice. South must appear to be reluctant to bid game but even at that West went on to four spades. South had to go five hearts with his long heart suit just in case East - West can make four spades (which they can).

**Led King**  
West led the spade king and continued with the ace. Declarer must now make the balance of the tricks. One club can be discarded on the diamond ace but where can the other one go. The only place is on a diamond and declarer must proceed carefully to get this discard.

West led the queen of trump at trick three. Declarer won in dummy with the king and he must play the jack from his hand. Actually he can play any card from the eight to the jack but he must not above all part with a low heart.

**Low diamond**  
A low diamond is led from

## Reappoint board members

Acton Council approved re-appointment of eight persons to local boards at their final regular meeting of the year last night (Tuesday).  
Frank Simioni and Lou Bonnette were reappointed to planning board for three year terms and Hank Ruppert was reappointed to committee of adjustment, also for three years.  
Parks and recreation committee member Hugh Patterson received reappointment along with library board members George Lee, Fred New, Ted Pratt and Rev. Harry Dawson.  
Library board terms are for one year only, but members are normally reappointed at the end of each year.

## No restriction . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

definition of a day nursery. In the case of kennels and dog pens, decision will be based on specific applications.

**Split opinion**  
Mr. Usher pointed out there is a split of opinion on decisions based on the zoning bylaw. He personally tells applicants at the town office that something is not permitted if it is not in the zoning bylaw. Some lawyers, he said, will say something is permitted if it is not covered in the bylaw. Planning board will take no further action on a maintenance and occupancy bylaw for the town.

**Meet owners**  
The matter arose as a result of a few problem locations which the town had no authority to order repaired or cleaned up. Mr. Richard of the urban renewal section of the government had come to Acton, seen the town, and sent his recommendations back in a letter.  
First of all he felt such a bylaw would take two years to come into effect. By that time he feels the Lawson Report will be implemented which incorporates

these problems. He pointed out the smallest place with such a bylaw is Vanier, a town of 22,000. He thought the buildings in Acton were in pretty fair shape with only a few problem spots.

Planning board agreed with Mayor Doby that a committee will meet with the owners and try to solve the problems amicably. Thursday was pay day for board members, when they received payment for each meeting attended all during '71 at \$10 a meeting for the five non-council members, the total was \$470.

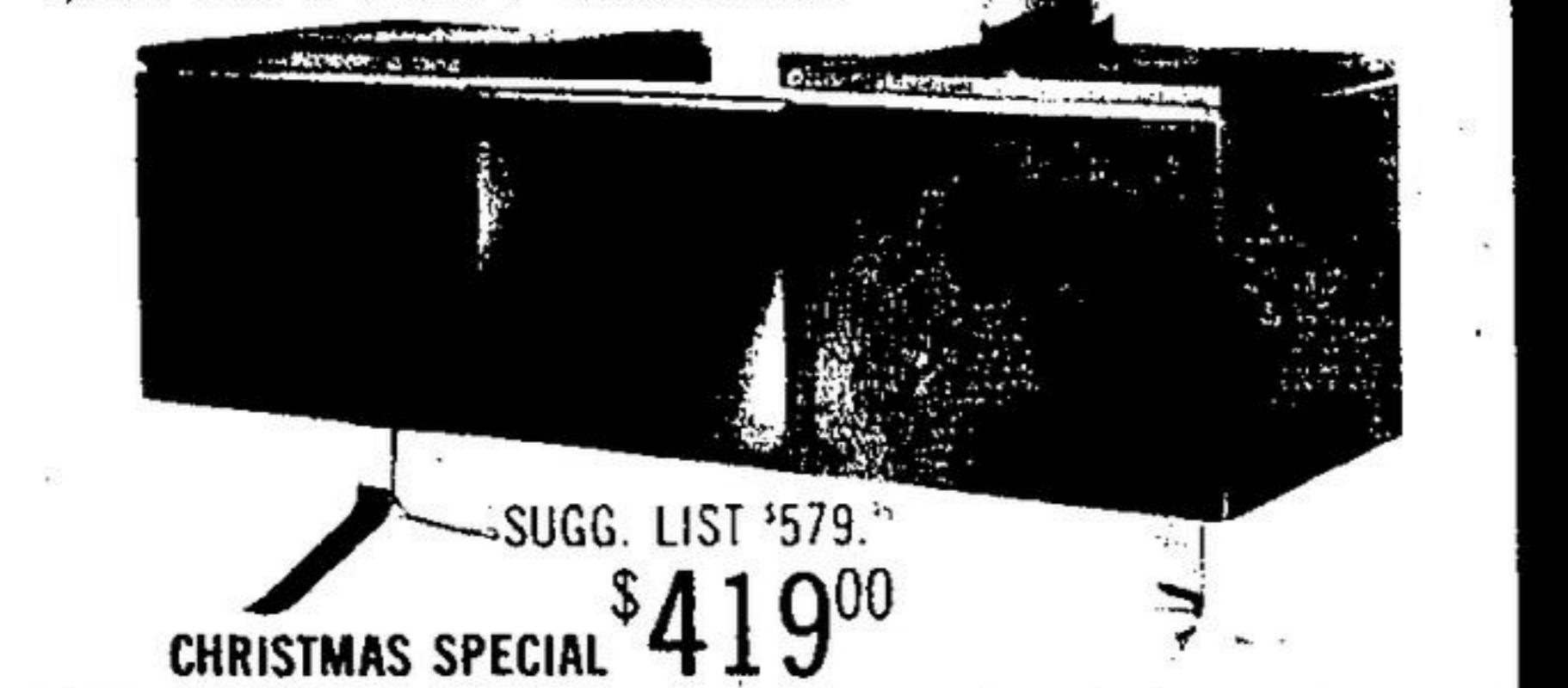
Only one with perfect attendance at 12 meetings was Vic Bristow; attendance was an 80.2 per cent average or six and a half persons per meeting, Mr. Usher told the men.  
Mayor Doby commended the good attendance record and said it has been a very effective board conducting their business in the proper manner and with the right attitude. Now more than ever there is need for planning people, he said.  
The chairman thanked all the members for their co-operation.

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